

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
RURAL DISTRICT

in the

Administrative County of Cambridge

---

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for

1938



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To the Chairman and Members  
of the  
South Cambridgeshire Rural District Council.

LADIES & GENTLEMEN,

I present for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1938 on the Health, Sanitary Conditions, and Vital Statistics of the South Cambridgeshire Rural District. The Report is an Ordinary one, drawn up in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health as specified in Circular 1728 dated October 25th, 1938.

ARTHUR MORGAN,  
Medical Officer of Health.

May, 1939.

## GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area of the District	...	...	...	...	112,315 acres
Estimated resident population, mid-1938	...	...	...	...	21,570
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) according to the Rate Books	...	...	...	...	7,092 ✓
Number of Parishes	...	...	...	...	52
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£65,864
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£272

SOCIAL CONDITIONS :—The whole area is essentially rural in character, the majority of the inhabitants being employed either in farming, fruit growing, or occupations subsidiary thereto. The parish of Sawston possesses more industrial characteristics than any other, the paper mills and leather works affording employment for a considerable number of persons.

Royal Air Force Stations are situated at Duxford and Bassingbourn.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

### Live Births :—

			Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	...	...	249	124	125
Illegitimate	...	...	11	5	6
Total	...	...	<u>260</u>	<u>129</u>	<u>131</u>
Birth Rate per thousand of the estimated resident population			Year 1936 11.2	Year 1937 12.9	Year 1938 12.0
Birth Rate per thousand population (England and Wales)			<u>14.8</u>	<u>14.9</u>	<u>15.1</u>

### Still Births :—

			Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	...	...	11	7	4
Illegitimate	...	...	<u>1</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>1</u>
Rate per thousand total (live and still) Births			Year 1936 48.7	Year 1937 37.7	Year 1938 44.1
Deaths	...	...	Total. 306	Male. 163	Female. 143
Death Rate per thousand of the estimated resident population uncorrected for age and sex distribution	...	...	Year 1936 13.3	Year 1937 14.4	Year 1938 14.1
Corrected Death Rate	...	...	9.3	10.0	9.8
Death Rate per thousand population (England and Wales)			12.1	12.4	11.6



Deaths from puerperal causes :—		Nil.	Rate per thousand total (live and still) births		
			Year	Year	Year
			1936	1937	1938
(a)	Puerperal Sepsis	...	—	3.7	Nil
(b)	Other puerperal causes	...	8.1	—	Nil

Number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age :—

		Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	...	8	3	5
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—
		—	—	—
Totals	...	8	3	5

Death Rate of infants under 1 year of age :—

		Year	Year	Year
		1936	1937	1938
(a)	All infants per thousand live births	...	42.7	43.1
(b)	Legitimate infants per thou- sand legitimate live births	...	44.6	44.5
(c)	Illegitimate infants per thousand illegitimate live births	...	—	—
Deaths from measles (all ages)	...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	...	1	1	Nil
Deaths from diarrhoea (under two years of age)	...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	43	56	41

#### Classification of Deaths under Age Groups.

		Male.	Female.	Total.
Under 1 year	...	3	5	8
1 and under 2	...	1	1	2
2 „ „ 5	...	—	—	—
5 „ „ 15	...	5	1	6
15 „ „ 25	...	4	—	4
25 „ „ 35	...	4	3	7
35 „ „ 45	...	10	4	14
45 „ „ 55	...	12	9	21
55 „ „ 65	...	21	28	49
65 „ „ 75	...	42	27	69
75 and over	...	61	65	126
		—	—	—
Totals	...	163	143	306
		—	—	—

# CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS ACCORDING TO CAUSE AND SEX

Causes of Death.				Males.	Fe- males.	Totals.
Typhoid Fever, etc.	...	...	...	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—
Influenza	...	...	...	1	—	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	7	—	7
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	2	—	2
Syphilis	...	...	...	—	—	—
General Paralysis of the Insane, etc.	...	...	...	—	—	—
Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	...	...	20	21	41
Diabetes	...	...	...	1	1	2
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	7	14	21
Heart Disease	...	...	...	46	46	92
Aneurysm	...	...	...	1	1	2
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	7	8	15
Bronchitis	...	...	...	3	4	7
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	2	4	6
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	4	—	4
Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	—	2	2
Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	—	—	—
Appendicitis	...	...	...	—	—	—
Cirrhosis of Liver, etc.	...	...	...	—	—	—
Other Diseases of Liver, etc.	...	...	...	2	1	3
Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	3	4	7
Nephritis	...	...	...	5	1	6
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	—	—	—
Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	—	—	—
Congenital Causes, etc.	...	...	...	2	3	5
Senility	...	...	...	15	13	28
Suicide	...	...	...	4	4	8
Other Violence	...	...	...	11	3	14
Other Defined Causes	...	...	...	16	12	28
Ill-defined Causes	...	...	...	4	1	5
Totals				163	143	306

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

### PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY :—

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:—A whole time officer who acts for all the Rural Districts in the County.

Sanitary Inspectors :—There are two Inspectors who also collect fortnightly rents from 852 Council Houses. Their whole time, therefore, is not devoted to purely sanitary work, and, as the number of Council Houses increases, so must the time spent on rent collections.

For purposes of administration the district is divided into two approximately equal parts termed the Western and the Eastern. Mr. A. C. Dyson is the Inspector for the Western area. Mr. E. G. Breed, Inspector for the Eastern portion, having obtained another appointment, left in June, 1938. He has been succeeded by Mr. A. G. Underwood, who took up duties on September 20th, 1938. During the interim period Mr. Dyson worked single handed and did his best, under rather difficult circumstances, to attend to the needs of the whole district.

### Laboratory Facilities :—

Chemical and Bacteriological analyses of water are made by the Public Analyst at Cambridge. Clinical Specimens for bacteriological examination are sent to Dr. W. H. Harvey, Green Street, Cambridge. Samples of milk are dealt with at the Agricultural Department of the University of Cambridge.

### Ambulance Facilities :—

The Red Cross or Police Ambulances at Cambridge are available for cases of accident or ordinary illness. The Ambulance at the Borough Isolation Hospital is used for the transport of cases of infectious disease. The service provided is efficient.

Nursing in the home

Clinics and treatment centres

} No alteration.

### Hospitals :—

There are no hospitals situated within the district. Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, is the nearest General Hospital and receives nearly all cases of accident and ordinary illness. The Royston Cottage Hospital, however, admits a certain proportion of cases from parishes in the Western area that are near that town.

Isolation Hospitals :—None within the area. All cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are sent to the Isolation Hospital at Mill Road, Cambridge. The charges are £2 12s. 6d. per week for each patient, plus 1s. 3d. a mile for the use of the ambulance and 5s. for the attendance of a nurse.



## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### WATER SUPPLY (Western Area) :—

(Parishes of Arrington, Abington Pigotts, Bassingbourn, Croydon, East Hatley, Gamlingay, Guilden Morden, Hatley St. George, Kneesworth, Litlington, Little Gransden, Steeple Morden, Shingay and Wendy.) The scheme for the provision of a piped supply of water to these parishes is nearing completion and work is now proceeding in the laying of service connections from the mains to property boundaries. This will continue, according to application, until the end of 1939. During the interim period Bassingbourn Aerodrome has been supplied by temporary pumping arrangements and the completion of the service reservoir in July enabled a supply to be maintained to a few properties urgently requiring water.

Owing to the fact that samples of the water sent for analysis during the early stages of the work exhibited a certain amount of turbidity due to the presence of iron oxycarbonate a good deal of discussion arose as to whether it would be necessary to arrange for some form of filtration and aeration in order to obtain a perfectly clear and bright water. The District Council held the view that the appearance of the water would improve in course of time with the use of the supply and that a filtration plant was unnecessary at the moment, particularly as arrangements had been made so that it would be possible to install such a plant at a later date if it were found to be really necessary. The filtration plant has, therefore, been omitted. The last analysis of the water was made in April, 1939, the sample being sent to the Counties Public Health Laboratories, 91, Queen Victoria Street, London, and the report reads as follows :—“ This sample is reasonably clear and bright containing only a few particles of mineral debris in suspension. The water is neutral in reaction, hard in character, although not unduly so, contains no excess of saline or mineral matter in solution, no metals apart from a negligible trace of iron, and is of satisfactory organic and bacterial purity. These results indicate a pure and wholesome water, suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.”

Reference has been made in past reports to Melbourn, Meldreth, Orwell and Whaddon. At Meldreth and Whaddon the main sources of water supply are from overflowing artesian bores; and, towards the end of the year, these sources were so seriously depleted by pumping operations in connection with a new bore at the Atlas Stone works, Meldreth, that it became necessary to cart water from the pumping station at Croydon. It being feared that the supply to these parishes would be permanently affected when this bore was in continuous use the Council put forward proposals for an extension of the Bassingbourn scheme to the parishes of Melbourn, Meldreth, Orwell, Shepreth and Whaddon, together with local extensions in the parishes of Gamlingay, Bassingbourn, Croydon, Steeple Morden and Guilden Morden. A Public Inquiry was held at Melbourn on the 25th of January, 1939, by one of the Ministry of Health's Inspectors and the Council's proposals were approved except for the local extensions to Guilden Morden, Steeple Morden, and the piped supply to the parish of Shepreth.



## GREAT AND LITTLE CHISHILL WATER SUPPLY:—

These parishes now have a piped supply from the service reservoir constructed at Great Chishill by the Saffron Walden R.D.C. for the purpose of supplying the western portion of that Rural District.

### PARISH OF HEYDON:—

This parish adjoins Great Chishill and is at last to be supplied by an extension of the main from this village. The scheme will involve the laying of  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles of 4 inch and 3 inch cast iron pipe mains. The original decision excluding this parish from participating in the piped supply to Great Chishill was referred to in my report for the year 1934.

So far as the Eastern area is concerned there are no new developments to record and the Waterworks at Linton and Sawston have continued to function in a satisfactory manner.

The present position as regards piped supplies is that, when the proposed extensions are completed, 21 out of the 32 parishes on the Western side of the district with a census population of 8,235 persons will be supplied from waterworks. One other parish (Longstowe) has a partial supply from the East Hunts. Water Company. The situation on the Eastern side, which comprises the 20 parishes that originally formed the old Linton Rural District, remains unaltered, i.e., 14 parishes having a total population of 6,827 persons being supplied (13 from the Linton area scheme and one from the Sawston waterworks).

Chemical and bacteriological examinations of the water from the different waterworks have, so far, been made quarterly, and the results obtained were satisfactory in every respect. These samples are not included in the list below. Out of the total of 56 samples in this list 33 were reported to be either fit or safe for drinking purposes, 11 to be unfit or unsafe, and 12 had some qualification appended such as "safe but to be kept under observation," "safe but poor quality," "second quality," and so on.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Where taken from.</i>	<i>Result.</i>
1.	Tap at new house, Melbourn Heath, from deep well in chalk	Safe
2.	Shallow chalk bore at new house in Orchard Road, Melbourn	Fit
3.	Shallow chalk bore at new bungalow, High Street, Melbourn	Safe
4.	Shallow chalk bore at No. 6, new bungalow, High Street, Melbourn	Safe
5.	Pump at 4 cottages, Station Road, Steeple Morden. owned by Herts. C.C.	Safe. To be kept under observation
6.	Pump in Town Green Road, Orwell (Public Supply)	Fit
7.	Public pump from shallow well in Stocks Lane, Orwell	Unfit
8.	Pump from shallow well at 3 houses in High Street, Orwell, occupied by Neaves, Poulson and Wilkins	Unfit

<i>No.</i>	<i>Where taken from.</i>	<i>Result.</i>
9.	Pump at Manor Farm, Orwell	Second quality
10.	Deep well at Coombe Grove Farm, Arrington	Unsafe
11.	Tap in scullery at Coombe Grove Farm, Arrington, from greensand bore	Safe
12.	Public Pump at Great Eversden	Safe
13.	Shallow well at new bungalow, Old North Road, Kneesworth, owned by Mrs. Howlett	Unsafe
14.	Pump at new house, Burt Farm, Bassingbourn, owned by C.C.C.	Unsafe
15.	Shallow well at new bungalow, Old North Road, Kneesworth, owned by Mrs. Howlett	Safe. To be kept under observation
16.	Tap at Mrs. Bullen's House, Church Lane, Arrington	Safe
17.	Spring in Church End, Arrington	Safe
18.	Shallow well at new bungalow, Litlington, owned by Miss Lawrence	Unsafe
19.	Shallow well at new bungalow, Kneesworth, owned by J. G. Hale	Poor quality, though safe
20.	Pump at bungalow on Bedford Road, Tadlow, owned by Downing College	Safe
21.	Pump at house occupied by W. Lincoln, The Cross, Bassingbourn	Unfit
22.	Tap from shallow well at Fowlmere School	Poor quality, though safe
23.	Tap in Girls porch at Gamlingay School, from shallow well in greensand	Safe. To be kept under observation
24.	Pump at No.'s 7 to 14, Council Houses, Fowlmere	Fit
25.	Pump at 4 houses opposite Post Office, Longstowe	Unsafe
26.	Tap at Mill House, Steeple Morden	Fit
27.	Greensand bore at new house, The Green, Barrington, owned by A. Storey	Fit
28.	Pump at new house, Bury Farm, Bassingbourn owned by C.C.C.	Safe
29.	Shallow well at new bungalow, Royston Road, Litlington, owned by E. Stanford	Safe
30.	Public Pump at Heydon	Safe
31.	Bored well at 6 cottages, Lower Road, Croydon, owned by Downing College	Unsafe
32.	Shallow well at new bungalow, Old North Road, Kneesworth, owned by W. Hart	Safe
33.	Oxon Lane Cottages, Linton	Safe
34.	Roberts Cottages, Great Abington	Safe, but to be kept under observation
35.	Pump near Guildhall, Whittlesford	Safe
36.	Tap at Walstones Cottage, Thriplow	Safe
37.	Frog Street Public Pump, Ickleton	Safe, but to be kept under observation
38.	Welch's Cottage; Foxton	Safe
39.	Standpipe, Parsonage Farm, Whittlesford	Safe



<i>No.</i>	<i>Where taken from.</i>	<i>Result.</i>
40.	Mrs. Ellis's Cottages Pump, Duxford	Safe
41.	" Umbrella Pump " Mortimer's Lane, Foxton	Safe, but poor quality
42.	Larkhall Cottages, Western Colville	Safe, but poor quality
43.	Tap, Thriplow House, Thriplow	Safe
44.	Pump, Whittlesford Mill, Whittlesford	Safe
45.	New House, Ickleton Road, Duxford	Safe
46.	" Umbrella Pump," Foxton	Safe, but poor quality
47.	Well on Green, Foxton	Safe
48.	Harding's New House, Green Street, Duxford	Safe, but poor quality
49.	Pump at " Chequers," Pampisford	Safe
50.	Pump near Church, Pampisford	Safe
51.	Council House Pump, Station Road, Duxford	Safe
52.	" Umbrella Pump," Foxton	Unsafe
53.	Temple Tea Rooms, Babraham	Safe
54.	Council House Pump, Foxton	Safe
55.	" Umbrella Pump," Foxton	Safe
56.	Pump at Council Houses, Pampisford	Unsafe

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There is no proper system of sewerage and sewage disposal in any part of the district. At Sawston, however, a partial system has been in operation for many years, but the arrangements can hardly be regarded as adequate, the sewer being in bad condition and the flow poor, so that there is much silting which necessitates frequent flushing. The flushing is now carried out by connecting to the public supply hydrants. Certain improvements have been made at the disposal works and the irrigation ditches lengthened, but now that Sawston has a piped supply of water this question of sewerage and sewage disposal will no doubt require further consideration in the future.

Conditions in the parish of Linton are not at all satisfactory, and, here again, the advent of a piped supply of water has aggravated nuisances in the High Street caused by the emptying of domestic waste water into street drains. It will be remembered that the sanction of the Ministry of Health to the Linton area water supply scheme was conditional on the provision of a scheme of sewage disposal for this village within a period of five years.

In the western portion of the district there is nothing of a fresh nature to report apart from ordinary routine matters such as improvements to existing drains and the provision of drains for new houses.

## RIVERS AND STREAMS :—

In a rural area of this size there is of necessity a certain amount of pollution of ditches and watercourses. In the smaller parishes, however, it is not sufficiently extensive to be regarded as a serious matter. At Sawston



a certain amount of factory waste is discharged into the river as well as the effluent from the sewage disposal works, but no complaints have been made concerning any offence caused thereby. At Linton the river Granta is polluted by untreated sewage, and, as previously stated, the only efficient remedy would be the provision of an adequate sewerage scheme. In the future it may be needful to give attention to the requirements of some of the larger parishes such as Gamlingay and Melbourn, but I do not consider the matter to be one of immediate urgency. Both in Gamlingay and Melbourn the sanitary conditions are such that there is considerable risk of pollution of local sources of water supply. This risk will be removed when the proposed piped supplies are in full working order and the question of sewerage then becomes one of secondary importance.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION :—

					Western Area	Eastern Area
(1)	No. of water closets provided :—					
	(a)	By conversion of privies or pail closets into water closets ... ..				
					3	15
	(b)	By provision of closet accommodation to new houses ... ..				
					14	22
(2)	No. of pail closets provided :—					
	(a)	By conversion of privies to pail closets ...				
					8	9
	(b)	By provision of closet accommodation to new houses ... ..				
					34	52

PUBLIC CLEANSING :—

The District Council has considered the advisability of instituting a scheme for the collection of house refuse throughout the district. Parishes were circularised, and, as the majority were not in favour, the matter has been dropped for the time being. The situation at present is that collections are organised locally and the refuse deposited in chalk pits or other suitable excavations. In the Eastern area collections are made periodically at Ickleton, Linton, Sawston, Whittlesford, Shudy Camps, Thriplow, Hinxton and Horseheath. In the Western area there are collections at Abington Pigotts, Bassingbourn, Gamlingay, Great Chishill, Hatley St. George, East Hatley, Litlington and Melbourn. The parishes of Kneesworth and Meldreth have also asked for a similar service. The whole question is beginning to assume rather large proportions and the present system, while representing a step in the right direction, cannot by any means be regarded as the most efficient manner of dealing with the problem. Hitherto it has been assumed that in a rural area householders would not find much difficulty in disposing of refuse on garden ground or allotments, but the increasing use of tinned foodstuffs has given the matter a different aspect. The main objections to the present method are the multiplication of indifferently kept refuse dumps over which it is difficult to exercise adequate control, and the comparative infrequency of the collections.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

	Western Area	Eastern Area
Complaints ... ..	70	115
Houses :—		
General Inspections for repairs, etc. ...	297	180
Under Housing Consolidated Regulations ...	43	78
Re-inspections ... ..	745	411
Overcrowding :—		
Houses measured for Form “ B ” ...	13	—
Re-inspection of cases of overcrowding re re-housing, etc. ... ..	49	53
Infectious Diseases ... ..	31	18
Water Supplies ... ..	190	208
Sanitary Conveniences ... ..	46	106
Sewers, Drains, Ditches and Cesspools ...	100	113
Factories Act ... ..	72	31
Cowsheds and Dairies ... ..	282	141
Public Health (Meat) Regulations ... ..	690	356
Shops Act ... ..	12	3
Schools ... ..	35	37
Moveable Dwellings ... ..	15	21
Scavenging and Cleansing ... ..	40	31
Rats and Mice Destruction Act ... ..	5	—
Knackers Yards ... ..	2	—
Inspection re Water Supply, Sanitary Accommoda- tion and Drains at Orwell, Whaddon, Melbourn, Meldreth and Shepreth, re proposed extension of main ... ..	220	—
Inspection of ponds, streams, etc., under Fire Brigade Act ... ..	141	—
Totals ...	3098	1902
Total number of nuisances and defects found ...	293	350
Number of notices served :—		
Preliminary ... ..	293	350
Statutory ... ..	2	17
Number of nuisances abated and defects remedied	238	302
Number outstanding at end of year ... ..	77	73
Number of premises disinfected ... ..	8	25

### SHOPS AND OFFICES :—

The only action taken during the year has been the service of preliminary notices requiring the provision of adequate ventilation in three shops and improved sanitary accommodation in two others.

### CAMPING SITES :—

There are no camping sites in the District.

### SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS :—

There are no Public or Privately owned swimming baths or pools in the District which are open to the public.

### ERADICATION OF BED BUGS :—

No instances of infestation have been found.

### SCHOOLS :—

All schools in the area have been visited, and, in some instances, improvements were found to be required in relation to sanitary accommodation, water supply and drainage. Most of these have now been effected.

## HOUSING.

### 1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

	Western Area	Eastern Area
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	297	180
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	745	411
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ... ..	43	78
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	43	78
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	12	5
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	94	114

### 2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notices :

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... ..	46	76
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### 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	5	15
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—		
(a) By owners ... ..	5	5
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	1	—



(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	3	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :		
(a) By owners ... ..	3	2
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—	—
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	6	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	8	37
(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :		
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	—	1
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ..	1	—

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding :—

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... ..	10	9
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ...	10	9
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ..	77	56
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ..	3	4
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ..	28	24
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	166	180
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... ..	Nil	1

(e) The overcrowding problem is one of continual change, the situation varying from time to time as children grow up and families increase or diminish in size.

At the end of 1937 there were 35 cases of overcrowding in the Western part of the district and 28 in the Eastern. It will be seen from the above table, that, during 1938, 28 and 24 cases were abated, leaving 7 instances in the Western and 4 in the Eastern area. To these figures must be added the 3 and 5 cases that occurred during the year under review, so the actual cases not yet abated are 10 in the Western area and 9 in the Eastern.

## HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) ACT, 1926:—

Since this Act came into operation 151 applications have been made for assistance in connection with the reconditioning of cottages. One hundred and thirty three of these requests were considered to come within the scope of the Act and the total sum promised by way of grants now amounts to £9,325 as against £7,022 in 1937.

## SLUM CLEARANCE:—

The whole of this programme is almost complete apart from the question of dealing with individual unfit houses as the need may arise. It is a fact, however, that notwithstanding the amount of progress made in housing matters, there still remain a number of cottages which cannot be regarded as at all ideal or as exhibiting a particularly high standard in relation to the health and comfort of the occupants. It is hoped that it may be possible to deal with a satisfactory proportion of these by a still more extended application of the Housing (Rural Workers) Act.

Altogether the District Council have now built 852 houses, (34 in the Western area and 60 in the Eastern during 1938). This number amounts to approximately one eighth of the inhabited houses in the district. They are distributed between the following parishes:—

WESTERN AREA. Parish	No. of Houses	EASTERN AREA. Parish	No. of Houses
Arrington ...	10	Balsham ...	28
Bassingbourn ...	29	Castle Camps ...	14
Barrington ...	36	Carlton ...	4
Croydon ...	4	Duxford ...	20
Fowlmere ...	20	Foxton ...	22
Great Eversden ...	10	Great Abington ...	9
Great Chishill ...	2	Hildersham ...	8
Gamlingay ...	56	Hinxton ...	8
Guilden Morden ...	16	Horseheath ...	22
Kingston ...	12	Ickleton ...	4
Litlington ...	14	Linton ...	112
Longstowe ...	2	Little Abington ...	4
Little Gransden ...	4	Pampisford ...	20
Little Eversden ...	12	Sawston ...	92
Melbourn ...	62	Shudy Camps ...	12
Meldreth ...	36	Thriplow ...	12
Orwell ...	25	Western Colville ...	8
Shepreth ...	18	West Wickham ...	15
Steeple Morden ...	10	West Wratting ...	4
Tadlow ..	2	Whittlesford ..	50
Whaddon ...	4		
Total ...	384	Total ...	468

In addition 24 houses were built by private enterprise.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### (a) MILK SUPPLY:—

			Western Area	Eastern Area
Number of Producers on the Register	...	...	83	62
Number of Wholesale Purveyors	...	...	10	12
Number of Retail Purveyors	...	...	55	38
Number of Wholesale and Retail Purveyors	...	...	30	15

The Sanitary Inspector for the Western Area reports that he has paid 282 visits to cowsheds and dairies, also that 110 preliminary notices were served, most of which have been complied with, relating to such matters as want of cleanliness, structural defects, etc. In the Eastern Area 141 visits were paid and 21 notices served. The number of visits and inspections in the Eastern Area are necessarily less and only relate to those paid by Mr. Underwood since he commenced duty in September, 1938.

### MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936:—

In the Western part of the district there are now 23 producers holding licences issued by the County Council entitling them to use the designation "Accredited Milk" and two who hold licences for the production of Tuberculin Tested Milk. In the Eastern Area the numbers are 23 and 4. Owing to changes of staff and other matters the number of samples submitted for bacteriological examination has fallen much below the average, only four having been taken. Of these one attained the standard laid down for accredited milk. I regard the regular taking of samples as a useful method of control. The results of the examinations are communicated to producers and provide a useful field for discussion and collaboration.

### MEAT AND OTHER FOODS:—

Number of Slaughterhouses on the register at the end of 1938:—

			Western Area	Eastern Area
Registered	...	...	14	6
Licensed	...	..	Nil	4
			—	—
	Totals	...	14	10
			—	—
Number of visits paid to slaughter-				
houses, meat stores and shops			702	356



## CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excl'di'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed ... ..	520	—	18	2300	2200
(approximate)	428	10	10	1096	1460
Number Inspected ... ..	429	—	8	1410	1119
	225	8	2	520	531
All diseases except Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	6
Whole carcasses condemned. ...	—	—	—	1	2
Carcases of which some part	9	—	—	2	14
or organ was condemned. ...	10	2	—	—	4
Percentage of the number inspec-	2·1	—	—	·14	1·2
ted affected with disease other	4·44	25	—	·109	1·13
than Tuberculosis ...					
Tuberculosis only ... ..	2	—	—	—	2
Whole carcasses condemned. ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part	13	—	—	—	29
or organ was condemned. ...	7	—	—	—	17
Percentage of the number inspec-	3·4	—	—	—	2·5
ted affected with Tuberculosis	3·11	—	—	—	3·12

In each column the first figure relates to the Western Area and the second to the Eastern.

It will be noted that about 50% of the approximate number of cattle killed have been inspected. It appears difficult to increase this percentage, owing, partly to the very scattered nature of the area, and partly to other demands upon the Inspectors time.

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The distribution and incidence of the notifiable infectious diseases is indicated in the following tabular statements. There is little to comment upon except the reduction in the number of cases of scarlet fever and the almost complete absence of diphtheria. The number of cases of these diseases occurring during the past five years was as follows:—

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.
1934 ...	80	3
1935 ...	87	2
1936 ...	11	Nil
1937 ...	58	1
1938 ...	14	1

So far as diphtheria is concerned antitoxin is always provided free of charge. The question of artificial immunisation has been under consideration,

but, up to the present time, no definite action has been taken. It is likely, however, that the matter will again come under review.

Table I. Distribution in Parishes.

Parish	Scarlet fever	Diphtheria	Typhoid Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Totals
Arrington	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Bassingbourn	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Carlton	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Duxford	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	3
Fowlmere	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	3
Foxton	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Heydon	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Hinxton	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Ickleton	1	—	—	2	2	—	—	5
Kingston	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Little Abington	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Linton	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	3
Longstowe	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Melbourn	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	3
Meldreth	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Orwell	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Sawston	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Shepreth	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
Thriplow	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Weston Colville	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
West Wickham	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Whaddon	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Totals	14	1	2	3	8	4	4	36

Table II. Monthly Incidence.

Month	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Typhoid Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Totals
January	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	4
February	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	4
March	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	3
April	2	—	—	—	4	2	—	8
May	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	3
June	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
July	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
August	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	2
September	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
October	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	3
November	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
December	2	—	1	1	—	—	2	6
Totals	14	1	2	3	8	4	4	36

Table III. Analysis under Age Groups.

Disease	Total cases notified	At Ages—Years												Admitted Hospital	Deaths
		.1	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	10.	15.	20.	35.	45.	65.		
Scarlet Fever	14	—	—	—	—	2	6	4	1	1	—	—	—	11	—
Diphtheria	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Typhoid Fever	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	1	—
Pneumonia	8	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	4	—	6
Erysipelas	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Totals	36	5	—	—	—	2	8	6	1	5	—	5	4	16	—

### NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Information concerning the non-notifiable infectious diseases is, of course, much more limited than in the case of the notifiable diseases. There has been the usual seasonal incidence of influenza, but the majority of cases, so far as I am aware, were not of a particularly severe type, moreover only one death has been attributed to this cause as compared with eight for the previous year.

Measles was prevalent during the months of April, May and June. There were also outbreaks of mumps in January and February and Whooping Cough in June and July. Information was received from the Head Teachers of schools relating to 662 children whom it was found necessary to exclude from school either on account of illness or home infection. Measles accounted for over 500, the remainder were chiefly due to mumps, whooping cough and chicken pox.



## TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and Mortality during 1938.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 ...	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
5 ...	1	—	2	3	—	—	1	—
15 ...	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
25 ...	—	2	—	1	4	—	—	—
35 ...	1	1	—	—	1	—	1	—
45 ...	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
55 ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	4	5	5	4	7	—	2	—

No deaths of non-notified cases have occurred. No action has been required under the public health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade), or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

## FACTORIES.

The Factories and Workshops Act, 1901, was superseded by the Factories Act of 1937, on July 1st, 1938, and the old classification into Factories and Workshops has been abolished.

Number of Factories with mechanical power	...	...	...	66
Number of Factories without mechanical power	...	...	...	43
Number of Inspections of Factories with mechanical power	...	...	...	56
Number of Inspections of Factories without mechanical power	...	...	...	66
Number of written notices	...	...	...	18
Number of defects found	...	...	...	54
Number of defects remedied	...	...	...	38

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